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- An order for Joint Administration of the cases was signed on c. May 9, 2006.
- d. No trustee or examiner has been appointed pursuant to Sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code, and the Debtors are operating their business and managing their property as Debtors in Possession.
- An Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors for USACM e. has been appointed by the Order of the Court. Also appointed were: Official Committee of Equity Security Holders of USA Capital First Trust Deed Fund, LLC; Official Committee of Equity Security Holders of USA Capital Diversified Trust Deed Fund, LLC; and Official Committee of Executory Contract Rights of USA Commercial Mortgage Company.

available in such Debtor's estate) eighty percent (80%) of the

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fees requested and one hundred percent (100%) of the expenses requested in that particular Monthly Statement.

3. Names and Hourly Rates of Professionals

The names of the Lewis and Roca professionals and a. paraprofessionals requesting fees during the period of this application, the hourly rate charged by each, and the fees billed (after deduction of fees of which no payment is requested) are as follows:

Attorney	Billed <u>Per Hour</u>	Hours <u>Billed</u>	Amount <u>Billed</u>
S. Freeman	\$510	121.0	\$61,710.00
R. Charles	\$385	235.4	\$90,609.75
S. Brown	\$320	12.2	\$ 3,904.00
S. Korn	\$275	121.8	\$33,495.00
M. Ruth	\$200	47.5	\$ 9,500.00
<u>Paralegal</u>			
M. Schoenike	\$180	104.7	\$18,846.00
N. Tanner	\$160	21.7	\$ 3,472.00
C. Arnold	\$170	0.3	\$ 51.00
Summer Associate			
N. Williams <u>Library Research</u> <u>Assistant</u>	\$150	40.00	\$ 6,000.00
S. Bundy	\$110	0.5	\$ 55.00
Litigation Assistants			
C. Jordan	\$55	4.7	\$ 258.50

b. Solely for the purpose of the Court's evaluation of the reasonableness of those standard hourly rates, a brief summary of the professional

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2. Accrued Administrative Expenses

As of the date of this application, there are no unpaid pending applications for administrative expense that have been approved by this Court, to the best of Applicant's knowledge.

C. SUMMARY SHEET

A summary sheet that sets forth the hours billed, hourly rate and total billed for each professional and paraprofessional is attached as Schedule A.

D. BACKGROUND OF DEBTOR

1. Summary of Legal Services Performed by Lewis and Roca

The services performed by Lewis and Roca during this application period related to (1) advising the Committee with respect to the powers and duties of the Committee; (2) analyzing the Debtors and their financial information with particular focus on USACM, and advising the Committee about them; (3) consulting with the Debtor and other committees concerning the administration of the case; (4) advising the Committee with respect to the powers and duties of the Debtor in the continued operation of its business and management of its assets in the Chapter 11 cases (5) preparing for and participating in meetings of the Committee and joint meetings of the Debtor and all committees; (6) evaluating court filings and advising the Committee with respect to them; (7) preparing for and participating in court hearings and addressing issues with respect to court orders; and (8) communicating with Committee Members and other professionals about various estate matters.

B110 Case Administration

Lewis and Roca performed tasks of a general nature including: preparation of a website for creditor inquiries; review of court filings, other documents and dockets; responding to procedural issues and most motions and orders; preparing for and participating in hearings covering uncontested as well as contested matters; responding to

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numerous inquiries from Committee Members; resolving confidentiality agreement issues with Debtors; researching issues of general applicability; assisting the Committee with selection of a financial advisor; working with Debtors and the other Committees on means to cost effectively scan Debtors' critical file documents for review, dissemination and archive purposes.

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Billed Hours Amount Per Hour **Attorney** Billed Billed S. Freeman \$510 \$14,280.00 28.0 R. Charles \$385 70.2 27,027.00 S. Brown \$320 12.2 3,904.00 **Summer Associate** N. Williams \$150 40.0 6,000.00 **Paralegal** M. Schoenike \$180 61.6 11,088.00 C. Arnold \$170 51.00 0.3 3,072.00 N. Tanner \$160 19.2 **Litigation Assistants** C. Jordan 4.7 258.50 \$55 **Library Research** 0.5 55.00 \$110 Assistant **TOTAL** 243.8 \$65,735.50

B120 Asset Analysis/Recovery

This time relates to assistance regarding investigation of the Debtor's assets and their value, including potential causes of action against the Debtor's insiders, requests.

Attorney	Billed <u>Per Hour</u>	Hours <u>Billed</u>	Amount <u>Billed</u>
S. Freeman	\$510	0.8	\$408.00
R. Charles	385	2.2	847.00

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TOTAL	3.0	\$1,255.00

B130 Asset Disposition

This time relates to evaluation of sales issues and offers from potential purchasers of assets, and communication with the Committee, Debtors, bidders and other professionals about potential sales.

<u>Attorney</u>	Billed <u>Per Hour</u>	Hours <u>Billed</u>	Amount <u>Billed</u>
S. Freeman	\$510	3.0	\$1,530.00
R. Charles	385	4.8	1,848.00
TOTAL		7.8	\$3,378.00

B140 Relief From Stay Proceedings

Counsel reviewed stay relief motions, researched and prepared responses, and addressed issues with respect to forms of order.

Attorney	Billed <u>Per Hour</u>	Hours <u>Billed</u>	Amount <u>Billed</u>
S. Freeman	\$510	2.5	\$1,275.00
R. Charles	385	2.7	1,039.50
<u>Paralegal</u>			
M. Schoenike	180	0.7	126.00
TOTAL		5.9	\$2,440.50

B150 Meetings Of Creditors

Time in this category relates to Committee meetings, including preparation of Committee bylaws and communicating with Committee members about meetings and

directing discussions. Counsel prepared memoranda for the Committee about pending motions and new developments, and meeting minutes and agendas. Counsel also participated in meetings with Debtor and all committees.

Attorney	Billed <u>Per Hour</u>	Hours <u>Billed</u>	Amount <u>Billed</u>
S. Freeman	\$510	47.0	\$23,970.00
R. Charles	385	86.5	33,302.50
<u>Paralegal</u>			
M. Schoenike	180	11.5	2,070.00
TOTAL		145.0	\$59,342.50

B160 Fee/Employment Applications

Counsel prepared the firm's engagement letter, employment application, verified statements and supplements, order of employment and an application order shortening notice. Lewis and Roca prepared a pro hac admission application and submitted monthly statements as required. In addition, counsel reviewed employment application of Debtor's counsel, and also prepared the employment documents for Sierra Consulting Group, Inc., the Committee's financial advisor, and responded to an objection to the Sierra employment.

Attorney	Billed <u>Per Hour</u>	Hours <u>Billed</u>	Amount <u>Billed</u>
S. Freeman	\$510	3.5	\$1,785.00
R. Charles	385	9.7	3,734.50
<u>Paralegal</u>			
M. Schoenike	180	27.5	4,950.00
TOTAL		40.7	\$10,469.50



B170 Fee Employment Objections

Time in this category relates to the review of oppositions or objections to employment of counsel for other committees and the Debtor, and resolving issues with respect to forms of orders concerning employment of non-Committee professionals.

Billed <u>Per Hour</u>	Hours <u>Billed</u>	Amount <u>Billed</u>
\$510	0.6	\$306.00
385	4.7	1,809.50
180	0.8	144.00
	6.1	\$2,259.50
	<u>Per Hour</u> \$510 385	Per Hour Billed \$510 0.6 385 4.7 180 0.8

B190 Other Contested Matters

Time in this category includes analysis of responses to, and hearings on various contested matters, including the pleadings concerning the Debtor's distribution motion and related motions by other parties.

Attorney	Billed <u>Per Hour</u>	Hours <u>Billed</u>	Amount <u>Billed</u>
S. Freeman	\$510	29.9	\$15,249.00
R. Charles	385	36.4	14,014.00
S. Korn	275	121.8	33,495.00
M. Ruth	200	47.5	9,500.00
Paralegal			
M. Schoenike	180	1.4	252.00
TOTAL		237.0	\$72,510.00



B195 Non-Working Travel.

Time in this category relates to counsel's non-working travel to and from Las Vegas to attend hearings and meetings and billed at fifty percent of the hourly rate.

Attorney	Billed <u>Per Hour</u>	Hours <u>Billed</u>	Amount <u>Billed</u>
S. Freeman	\$510	5.0	\$2,550.00
R. Charles	385	9.9	3,792.25
Paralegal			
N. Tanner	160	2.5	400.00
TOTAL		15 4	φ. 542.25
TOTAL		17.4	\$6,742.25

B230 Financing/Cash Collections

Counsel reviewed and responded to documents related to proposed DIP financing, including collateral and budget issues and proposed revisions to the DIP financing order, and related to the Fertitta completion loan.

Attorney	Billed <u>Per Hour</u>	Hours <u>Billed</u>	Amount <u>Billed</u>
S. Freeman	\$510	0.7	\$357.00
R. Charles	385	6.9	2,656.50
<u>Paralegal</u>			
M. Schoenike	180	0.8	144.00
TOTAL		8.4	\$3,157.50

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B310 Claims Administration and Objections

Time in this category relates to responses to investors/creditors regarding claims inquiries.

Attorney	Billed <u>Per Hour</u>	Hours <u>Billed</u>	Amount <u>Billed</u>
R. Charles	\$385	1.4	\$539.00
<u>Paralegal</u>			
M. Schoenike	180	0.4	72.00
TOTAL		1.8	\$611.00

2. Summary of Costs

Lewis and Roca seeks reimbursement for costs incurred in the amount of \$40,250.68. All costs are also customarily charged to non-bankruptcy clients of Lewis and Roca. The amount charged by Lewis and Roca for photocopies in this case is 20¢ per page. Facsimiles are charged at \$1.00 per outgoing facsimile. Deliveries were made when signatures were required, and for documents delivered (principally to the court), and transcript order deliveries.

All costs from outside parties, such as Federal Express, mail, delivery charges, long distance telephone charges, travel expenses, Lexis and Westlaw searches and the like, are charged at the unit rate charged by the vendors. Travel expenses are limited to airfare charges, taxi or rental car and parking charges. The summary of the requested expense is:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>		
Delivery – Federal Express	58.81		
Travel Expenses	1,866.40		
Other Disbursements	724.15		

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The three Committees incurred an expense in scanning and copying documents for Debtors' production. The cost was split equally among the Committees, and Lewis and Roca advanced \$649.83 for this purpose. A copy of the invoices is attached as Exhibit 2. Although this expense was not incurred until the bill was received in August, Lewis and Roca requests reimbursement in this application due to the unusual nature of the request, and to suggest that this expense is one Debtors should incur in the ordinary course of business, without shifting the burden to the Committees' professionals.

Total Advances

The total time for all timekeepers for which fees are requested is 716.9 hours, resulting in total fees requested of \$227,901.25 along with expense reimbursement of \$40,900.51 from May 24, 2006 through July 31, 2006. Lewis and Roca professionals

\$40,900.51



spent an additional 7.1 hours representing \$721.00 of fees, for which no payment is requested, including time for checking potential conflicts of interest and duplicative work.

3. Evaluating Standards

In accordance with 11 U.S.C. § 330, this amount was calculated using the hourly rate for the attorneys involved. *See also In Re Yermakov*, 718 F.2d 1465, 1471 (9th Cir. 1983) ("The primary method used to determine a reasonable attorneys' fee in a bankruptcy case is to multiply the number of hours expended by an hourly rate"). This has also been referred to as the "lodestar" or basic fee which, if warranted, can be adjusted upward or downward. In that regard, the Ninth Circuit in *Yermakov* made specific references to *Johnson v. Georgia Highway Express, Inc.*, 488 F.2d 714, 717-19 (5th Cir. 1974), in which the Fifth Circuit listed twelve factors which should be considered in awarding attorneys' fees. These "*Johnson* factors" have been referred to and utilized by many courts in considering and awarding attorneys' fees in bankruptcy cases. *See In Re Nucorp Energy, Inc.*, 754 F.2d 655 (9th Cir. 1985).

The Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel has held that the "lodestar" approach, coupled with consideration for the "*Johnson* factors" is the appropriate standard to be applied in awarding fees in a bankruptcy case. *See In re Powerine Oil Co.*, 71 Bankr. 767 (Bankr. 9th Cir. 1986).

The provisions of § 330(a) place a premium on the timeliness of administration of the case. Compensable services must be "performed within a reasonable amount of time commensurate with the complexity, importance and nature of the problem, issue or task addressed." 11 U.S.C. § 330(a)(3)(A). Lewis and Roca believes all services have been provided in a timely basis.

For a more specific description of the various services provided, categorized as a project basis, as well as a general description of what was accomplished with respect to each project, please consult the attached project billing.

Brief biographical information of attorneys

Susan M. Freeman: Partner in the law firm of Lewis and Roca LLP in the Business Section, certified specialist in bankruptcy law, Arizona Board of Legal Specialization. Education: New York University, J.D., 1975 (Root-Tilden Scholar); Mt. Holyoke College, B.A., with distinction 1972. Concentration is in the areas of appeals, bankruptcy. Member of the State Bar Association, and the Bankruptcy Section of the Bar, and of the American Bar Association Business Bankruptcy Section. Fellow and Director, American College of Bankruptcy. Chair Chapter 11 Subcommittee of ABA Business Bankruptcy Committee. Author of Chapter 27, Ethical Responsibilities, Norton Bankruptcy Law & Practice 2d. Lecturer at various continuing legal education programs on bankruptcy in Arizona and nationally.

Rob Charles: Partner in the Tucson, Arizona office of Lewis and Roca LLP. Admitted to Arizona bar, 1982; admitted to Nevada bar. Education: University of Arizona (B.A., 1979); University of Arizona (J.D., 1982 with distinction). Law Clerk to the Hon. Earl H. Carroll, District of Arizona (1982-1984). Adjunct faculty, University of Arizona College of Law. Former chair, State Bar of Arizona, Bankruptcy Section; current chair, State Bar of Arizona Committee on Rules of Professional Conduct. Member, American Bar Association, Sections of Business Law and Litigation, active in the Bankruptcy Committee of the Business Law Section. Recent articles include the Annual Survey of the Automatic Stay, in the Annual Survey of Bankruptcy Law, published by Clark Boardman Callaghan. Recent presentations include panel presentations at the Norton Litigation Institute in Las Vegas, Nevada, and to subcommittee meetings of the American Bar Association Business Law Section's Business Bankruptcy Committee and the American Bankruptcy Institute.

Scott K. Brown: Associate in the Phoenix, Arizona law firm of Lewis and Roca LLP in the Commercial Litigation group, practicing primarily in the area of bankruptcy law. Admitted to bar in 2002. Education: Brigham Young University (BA 1997) and J. Reuben Clark Law School (JD 2000). Author of The Coptic Church in Egypt: A Comment on Protecting Religious Minorities from Non-state Discrimination, Brigham Young University Law Review 1049 (2000); Jehovah's Witnesses v. Land Berlin: Requiring Religious Communities Seeking Public Corporation Status in Germany to Satisfy the "Meaning and Purpose of Corporation Status" Test, Brigham Young University Law Review 673 (1999); and Regulating or Reorganizing?: Depriving Federal Bankruptcy Courts of Their Statutory Authority and Misapplying Fundamental Tenets of Bankruptcy Law in in re Cajun Electric Power Cooperative, Inc., Brigham Young University Journal of Public Law 249 (2000).

Sivan R. Korn: Associate in the Phoenix, Arizona law firm of Lewis and Roca LLP in the Commercial Litigation group, practicing primarily in antitrust litigation, antitrust compliance counseling and intellectual property litigation as well as general commercial litigation. Admitted to bar in 2002. Education: College of Management School of Law (1999 LL.B) and Fordham University School of Law, LL.M, 2001. While in law school in Israel, Ms. Korn was a law clerk for the Hon. Ruth Zochowitzki at the Jerusalem District Court. Following law school she clerked with the Chief Deputy of the Israel Attorney General, focusing on Supreme Court appellate work in matter of national security and complex white collar crime cases. Ms. Korn received an L.LM., magna cum laude, from Fordham University in New York, in 2001, where she also ranked first in class and was a recipient of the Edward Hawk Award as well as the full tuition merit scholarship.



Marvin C. Ruth: Associate in the Phoenix, Arizona law firm of Lewis and Roca LLP in the Commercial Litigation group. Admitted to bar in 2005. Education: University of Arizona (B.A. 2001) Robert C. Boyd Scholar; James E. Ursano Army Scholar, Arizona Regents Scholar and University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law, J.D., 2005 magna cum laude, Perry Rogers Scholar. While in law school, Mr. Ruth was the articles editor for the Arizona Journal of International and Comparative Law and was also a member of the Black Law Students Association and the Jessup International Law Moot Court Team.